CLAIMS

1. An information processing apparatus comprising

processing means for carrying out at least a processing of decoding encoded unit data and a pre-decoding processing related to said unit data, said pre-decoding processing being carried out prior to said processing of decoding;

storage means where decoded data obtained on said processing of decoding are written and transiently stored; and

outputting means from which the decoded data stored in said storage means is continuously read out and output as data for reproduction/ outputting;

said processing means commencing the processing of decoding of said unit data after the end of the pre-decoding processing related to said unit data.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein, if second unit data is reproduced/ output next to first unit data, said processing means commences pre-decoding processing related to said second unit data after the end of the processing of decoding of said first unit data.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

said storage means includes a plurality of transient storage areas;

said processing means sequentially writing decoded data, obtained on processing of decoding, in said plural transient storage areas, from one data capacity of said transient storage area to another;

said outputting means reading out the written decoded data each time said

decoded data is written in said transient storage area and outputting the data as data for reproduction/ outputting.

4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

said processing of decoding for unit data is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation; and wherein

said pre-decoding processing related to unit data is tamper check processing for said unit data.

5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

said processing of decoding for unit data is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation; and wherein

said pre-decoding processing related to unit data is processing of decryption and/or demodulation for relevant data pertinent to said unit data.

6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

said storage means includes at least one transient storage area and data capacity changing means for changing the data capacity of said transient storage area depending on the length of reproducing time for said unit area.

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

said storage means includes a plurality of transient storage areas; and

data capacity changing means for changing the data capacity of said transient storage area of said storage means;

said data capacity changing means changing the data area of said transient

storage area depending on the duration of processing time needed for said pre-decoding processing relevant to said unit data.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein, if said pre-decoding processing relevant to unit data is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation of relevant data, related to said unit data, the duration of the processing time needed for said pre-decoding processing is estimated based on the ancillary information added as relevant data.

9. The information processing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said storage means includes a plurality of sets of transient storage areas, each set being made up of a plurality of transient storage areas and being different in storage capacities;

said data capacity changing means selecting one of transient storage areas of said plural sets depending on the duration of the processing time retained to be needed for said pre-decoding processing.

10. An information processing method comprising

pre-decoding processing relevant to encoded unit data;

processing of decoding for decoding said unit data after the end of said pre-decoding processing;

processing of storage for transiently storing decoded data obtained on said processing of decoding; and

outputting processing for successively reading out said decoded data transiently stored by said processing of storage and for outputting the read-out

decoded data as data for reproduction/ outputting.

11. The information processing method according to claim 10 wherein, when second unit data is reproduced/ output next to first unit data, pre-decoding processing relevant to second unit data is commenced after the end of the processing of decoding of first unit data.

12. The information processing method according to claim 10 wherein said processing of decoding is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation and wherein said pre-decoding processing is tamper check processing for said unit data.

13. The information processing method according to claim 10 wherein said processing of decoding is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation and wherein said pre-decoding processing is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation for relevant data related to said unit data.

14. The information processing method according to claim 10 wherein said processing of storage is performed on storage means having at least one transient storage area; said method further comprising

processing of changing the data capacity of said transient storage area depending on the duration of the reproduction time of said unit data.

15. The information processing method according to claim 10 wherein

said processing of storage is carried out for storage means having a plurality of transient storage areas, and wherein the method further comprises

data capacity change processing for changing the data capacity of said

transient storage area depending on the duration of the processing time retained to be needed for pre-decoding processing relevant to said unit data.

16. The information processing method according to claim 15 wherein, if said pre-decoding processing relevant to said unit data is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation for relevant data related to unit data, the duration of the processing time, retained to be needed for said pre-decoding processing, is estimated based on the ancillary information annexed to said relevant data.

17. The information processing method according to claim 10 wherein said storage means includes a plurality of sets of transient storage areas, each set being made up of a plurality of transient storage areas and being different in storage capacities;

said data capacity-changing means selecting one of transient storage areas of said plural sets depending on the duration of the processing time retained to be needed for said pre-decoding processing.